a 192 million dollars financial arrangement with a consortium of European countries for the acquisition of more Air Bus (A 320) air crafts; and

(b) the terms and conditions under which the arrangements has been made?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main terms and conditions are given in the Statement.

Statement

Amount of Loan	:	US $ 192 million.
Rate of Interest	:	*(i) In respect of UK portion* LIBOR + 50 Basis Points.
		(ii) In respect of French Portion LIBOR + 55 Basis Points.
		(iii) In respect of German Portion Aircraft No. 1 to 4— 9.17% per annum
		Aircraft No. 5 to 6— 9.19% per annum
Repayment Terms	:	In 20 half yearly rental instalments commencing after six months from the delivery of each aircraft.
Guarantee	:	By Govt. of India to a maximum extent of 30% of the outstanding principal amount and 100% of the interest amount.

International Status to Ahmedabad Airport

489. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ahmedabad (Gujarat) Airport is declared as an international airport;

(b) if so, the number of international flights that come in a week at this airport;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government proposes to introduce some more flights from there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Air India operates two connecting flights a week from Ahmedabad to destinations abroad *via* Delhi and Bombay.

(c) No, Sir.

(b) Does Not arise.

Paucity of spare parts and maintenance items in Air India

490. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India management had set up a Committee to probe into the acute paucity of spares and other rotable aircraft maintenance items and was assigned in the task to carry out physical inventory of spares for their availability and movement for the past eight years;

(b) if so, its findings and action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Committee found that spares worth rupees 11 crores were untraceable and that spares and maintenance items worth over rupees 20 crores had not been used for over two years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard; and

(e) the new norms fixed in this regard and the action taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The final report of the Committee is awaited.

Non-payment of Customs Duty by Air Taxi Operators

491. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air-taxi operators have brought in aircraft without payment of customs duty;

(b) what action is being taken against them in this regard; and

(c) whether the Ministry and DGCA would suspend permission granted to such operators till dues are cleared?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No duty is levied on import of aircraft, at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of Airport at Ernakulam District in Kerala

492. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to construct a new Airport at Nedumpasseri in Ernakulam District in Kerala; and

(b) whether Government have authorised any agency to acquire land and to construct building for the airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) A proposal formulated by the District Collector of Ernakulam for construction of an airport at Cochin was received. It envisages that the cost of the project will be financed mainly from contributions of Non Resident Indians. The proposal was discussed with the Minister of Transport and officials of the Government of Kerala at a meeting held on 6th April, 1993. It was decided that the State Government will work out the modalities of setting up of the proposed project with technical assistance of the National Airports Authority. Government of India have not asked any agency to acquire land or construct building for the Airport.

A Society under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister, Kerala has been registered for taking up the project.

National Airports Authority has indicated to the State Authorities the extent of land required for the project.

Sound and Light show at Shaniwarwada

493. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of the sound and light show proposed to be organised at Shaniwarwada, Pune;

(b) whether any proposal has been received in this regard from the Government of Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) A proposal for Sound and Light Show to be organised at Shaniwarwada, Pune had been received from the State Government of Maharashtra in 1992. The proposal was examined and clarifications had been sought for, from the State Government. A revised proposal has been received in July, 1993.

Tourist inflow to J and K

494. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steady increase in the number of foreign tourists to J and K recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) According to the information available from the State Government, the number of foreign tourists who visited Kashmir Valley during the last three years were as given below:—

Year	Number of foreign tourists
1990	4627
1991	4887
1992	9209

Details concerning Indian Airline pilots obtaining No Objection Certificate

495. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian Airlines pilots have sought No Objection Certificate to quit the domestic carrier;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 36 pilots of Indian Airlines had applied for issuance of No Objection Certificate to enable them to find alternate employment elsewhere. Indian Airlines does not issue 'No Objection Certificate' in such cases.